

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M Minneapolis MN 55415

> Office 612-673-2202 Fax 612-673-3250 Cell 612-296-0579

Email: cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov

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Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 3-28-12

Cam's next Seward Office Hours: Tuesday, April 24th, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Redistricting Goodbye, West Seward
- 2) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments
- 3) Compost Amendments Pass Unanimously
- 4) Seward Bike Walk Center
- 5) Earth Hour
- 6) Changes to Yard Waste Rules
- 7) Nice Ride Season Beginning
- 8) State of the City Address
- 9) New Director of Equity in Employment
- 10) MPD Rehiring CSOs
- 11) Street Sweeping Begins April 10
- 12) Solar on Fire Station 19
- 13) Health Department Open House
- 14) Openings on City Boards and Commissions
- 1) The Charter Commission has adopted a new ward map that divides Seward into two different wards, 2 and 6. The dividing line is 24th St E on the south and 30th Ave S on the east. I know that this was not the outcome that the Seward Neighborhood Group and most Seward residents supported. I did not expect or support it either. I have been honored to be able to represent and serve our entire neighborhood these past 6 years and I think that has allowed us a unique opportunity to work together for the benefit of the neighborhood. That will not change and, despite these boundary changes, I will continue to work to the best of my ability to support, serve and represent the whole of the Seward neighborhood on the Council.
- 2) The Urban Agriculture Text Amendments I have authored unanimously passed the Council's Zoning and Planning Committee on March 22 in very strong shape despite some compromise amendments to what the Planning Commission approved. On hoop houses: their height will be limited to 6.5' on parcels with 1-4 unit residential buildings. Everywhere else, they will be able to be 12' tall. This would allow properly-sized hoop houses not only on market gardens, community gardens and urban farms, but also as accessory uses to institutions (schools, churches, etc.) and large apartment buildings. On market garden sale days: market gardeners will be allowed to sell directly to the public 15 days per year. They will not be restricted to one sale day per week, as staff recommended, but will have to post contact info on their farm stand each day they're open and notify their neighbors at the beginning of the season. And on raised bed materials; an amendment clarifies that metal and ceramics can be used but tires and bathtubs can't, and clarifies that green-treated lumber is not required. The amendments now move forward to the full City Council on March 30th, where I expect them to pass with strong support from the rest of my colleagues.
- 3) The ordinance amendments I have authored to the City's composting ordinance passed the Council unanimously. These changes increase the allowable size for compost areas, clarify the requirements on compost bin construction and the types of materials that can be composted, and authorize City staff to require people who violate the terms of the ordinance to take a course in composting.
- 4) I expect the Council to act on the Seward Bike Center fiscal agent agreement on Friday. A last-minute amendment will ensure that we don't run into trouble given the Federal Highway Administration's reservations about funding the full amount. I want to thank SNG Board Member **Sheldon Mains** for his great work on this project, and congratulate him for clearing this important hurdle.

- 5) The Council has again adopted a resolution supporting Earth Hour. On March 31, from 8:30pm-9:30pm, the City will participate in Earth Hour by turning off all uses of electricity in municipal buildings not required for life, safety or operations, and will turn off the decorative lighting on the Stone Arch Bridge for the entire night as a symbol of the City's commitment to being part of the solution to climate change.
- 6) Starting this spring, Solid Waste and Recycling will no longer pick up yard waste in plastic bags. Residents may use compostable bags, paper lawn bags, or sturdy reusable containers. This will result in an improved collection program with lower yard waste processing costs and higher quality finished compost. From April 9 to May 7 there will be a four-week transition period for folks who have plastic leaf bags from last season. Through collection day the week of April 30, you may set out plastic bags of leaves from last fall or early spring for collection. Your yard waste crews will debag and collect your yard waste placing the empty plastic bags in your garbage cart and information about the new rules will be left behind. After May 7, 2012, all yard waste in conventional plastic bags will not be picked up but will be left and tagged to be repackaged. For more information, see: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm.
- 7) Thanks to our unusually mild winter, Nice Ride bikes will be returning to Minneapolis streets earlier than in past years. Crews are currently returning Nice Ride bike-sharing kiosks to Downtown and neighborhood commercial areas, including in Seward. Once the kiosks are in place, the process of placing bikes at the kiosks will begin during the week of April 2. After Nice Ride staff have run a few system tests, folks can once again check out bikes. For more information, see https://www.niceridemn.org/.
- 8) Mayor Rybak will deliver his annual State of the City address on **April 11** at 10am, at the Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway. Each year, the mayor addresses the community to report on the City's accomplishments and challenges and outline an agenda for the coming year.
- 9) The Civil Rights Department has hired Karen Francois as Director of Employment Equity for the City of Minneapolis. She will join the One Minneapolis Equity in Employment project team in the ongoing efforts of the city to mitigate the racial disparity in employment. The One Minneapolis equity in employment program was one of the only new programs Mayor Rybak and the city council funded in 2012 with an initial investment of \$300,000. A key focus of the initiative will be on providing hard-to-employ workers with training and placement for good jobs in the green economy. I have been leading the Council's efforts on employment equity for years, and I'm excited to welcome Ms. Francois to the City. We certainly have quite a lot of room for improvement.
- **10)** The Council has authorized the Police Department to use \$400,000 in one-time funds from their 2011 budget overage to recall the group of Community Service Officers who were previously laid off. This is good for MPD's overall diversity, as this CSO class was more diverse than the MPD as a whole.
- 11) City-wide street sweeping begins April 10. From now through the week of April 30, sweepers will clean all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways. Watch for temporary "No Parking" signs that should be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. In addition to the "No Parking" signs the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. People can visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/index.htm to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. Click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept.
- 12) In February, a new solar installation was put on Station 19 to provide electricity and hot water to the building. The station is one of six Minneapolis buildings that have new solar installations funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and using Xcel Energy rebates. The roof of Fire Station No. 19 features 58 new solar electric panels, which will provide 9.83 kilowatts of power, and three solar thermal panels, which will provide the fire station with 50-70% of its hot water needs.
- **13)** As part of National Public Health, April 2-6, the City will hold an open house and awards ceremony on April 4, 11 am-1 pm in the City Hall Rotunda. Awards will be given to community partners who have contributed to health department goals and the public is invited to stop by to learn about City's Department of Health and Family Support programs and initiatives in action.
- 14) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.